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ABSTRACT

This booklet presents a comprehensive list of microcomputer software, along with evaluations, that may be beneficial to others seeking assistance in initiating a resource center for computer-assisted instruction. A summary of the project that developed this listing appears first. The software bibliography is arranged according to instructional areas. Materials in each area are listed alphabetically by title. The company, cost, instructional level, description, and evaluation are given for each piece of software. The upper right-hand corner of each evaluation contains a one-word overall evaluation: poor, fair, good, and excellent. Content areas include career development, computer literacy and tool, language arts, science, and social studies. Evaluations are based on how effectively each piece of software would aid an adult learner seeking the Graduate Equivalency Diploma. Addresses of software publishers are appended. (YLB)

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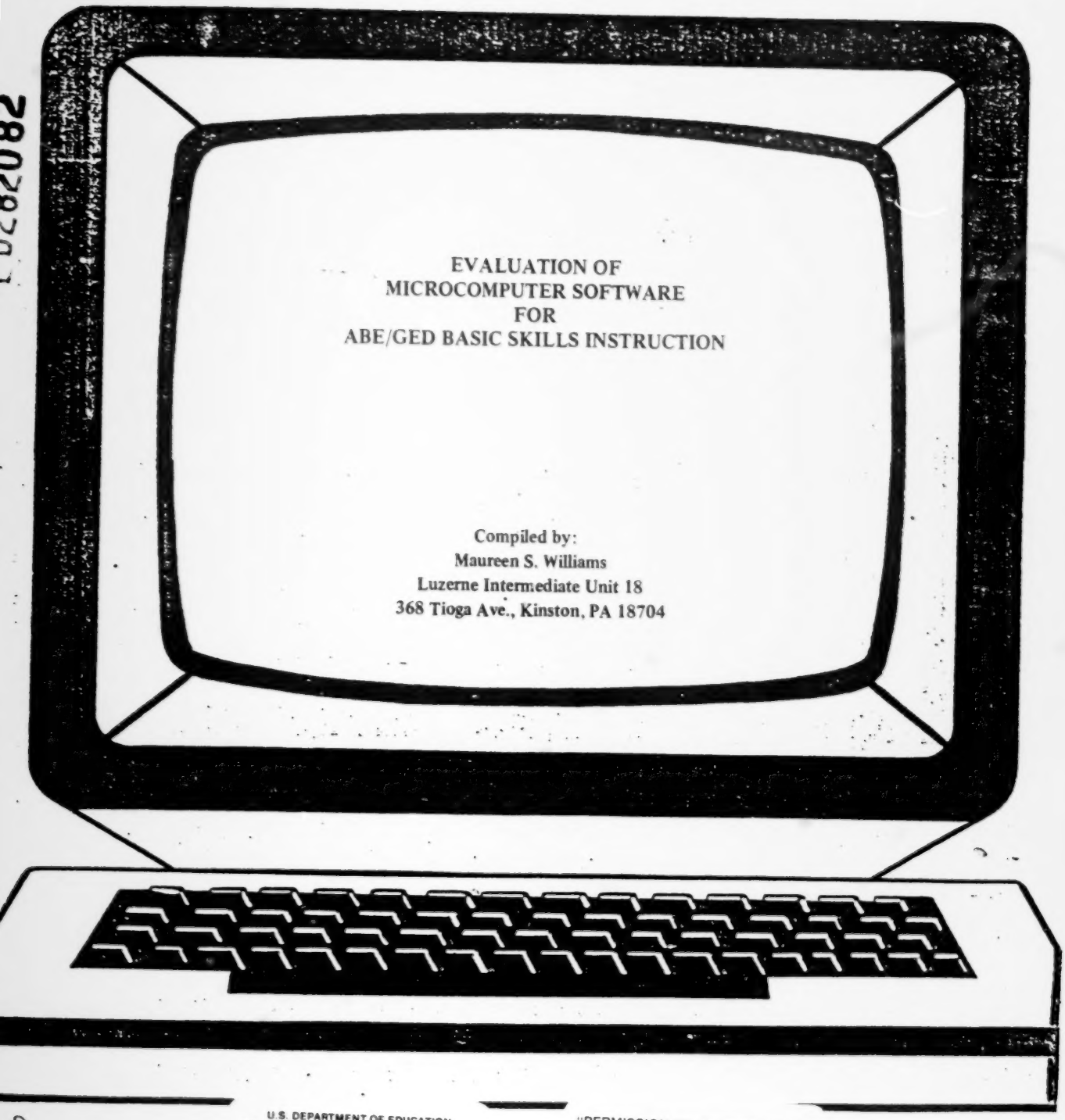

EVALUATION OF MICROCOMPUTER SOFTWARE FOR ABE/GED BASIC SKILLS INSTRUCTION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION ..... page 1

SUMMARY OF THE
PROJECT ..... page 2

FINDINGS OF THE
PROJECT ..... page 3

SOFTWARE INSTRUCTIONAL
MATERIAL EVALUATIONS ..... page 5

COMPUTER CATALOGUE LIST ..... page 36

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is developed as part of a 310 Adult Education Project, "Regional Resource Center for ABE/GED Computer Software". The purpose of this booklet is to compile a comprehensive list of microcomputer software, along with evaluations, that may be beneficial to others seeking assistance in initiating a resource center for Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI).

More ABE/GED programs are utilizing Computer Assisted Instruction because of its effectiveness in providing drill and practice in the basic skills area. Other advantages are that students can proceed at their own pace in a non-threatening manner with immediate reinforcement.

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Summary of the Project for
A Regional Resource Center for ABE/GED
Computer Software

In September of 1985, this project began with the Project Director contacting various publishers of software seeking gratis copies of their materials to be housed in the Resource Center. If it was impossible to obtain complimentary copies, the letters also requested a 30 day preview period at which time both the instructors and the Project Director could evaluate the usefulness of the material. Specific concerns to evaluating the software would include appealing to the students interests, ease of use, the ability of the student to control the pace of the lesson and the appropriateness of the supplemental material that comes with the software packet. Pre/post tests, reproducible worksheets would be an example of this material. These programs would be field-tested at a local ABE/GED site.

The hardware to be used in this project is the Apple IIe computer which is already in place at the ABE/GED site. Therefore, all the software evaluated in this booklet are for the Apple IIe.

A variety of software was donated and purchased. The main content areas include math, language arts, science, social studies and career development. Most instructional materials include a pre-test, post-test, classroom management system, drill, instruction and systems for extra help. Instructional methodologies include fill in the blanks, multiple choice, true or false, and typing in the correct answer. Some programs include speed adjustments and provisions for printing out worksheets to compliment the computer lesson. In some instances, a printer was needed to do the worksheets. Some of the software was instructional and others were a game-type format. Still others were a quiz-type review of a certain subject area.

Evaluation forms were developed for both the ABE student and the instructors. Students evaluated their experience in regard to ease of use and content. The ABE student is extremely goal-oriented. His/her goal is to pass the GED test. If the software was not pertinent to his/her goal, the student was less motivated to use the particular piece of software. The instructors in the Adult Education Program evaluated the quality of the software.

It should be concluded that all materials selected have gone through a myriad of evaluators and criteria culminating in educational enhancement for each student.

Findings of the Project

This project was a one year project to obtain software to be housed in a Regional Resource Center. At the on-set of the project, there were no materials or a Resource Center. At the conclusion of the project, there are 78 pieces of software available in the newly established Resource Center.

The students enjoy working with the computer because of the immediate feedback provided by most programs. They are not as intimidated by the computer as they are by the instructor. They feel that if a mistake is made, they can learn from it rather than be embarassed by it in front of the instructor.

With the materials now available to the instructors, they can now supplement their individualized program to better suit the student's needs.

The use of the computer and the software is very cost effective after the initial purchase. Most companies have a toll free number that can be used if any problem should arise. Some companies will also replace a damaged disk as long as the damaged one is returned.

The only drawback found when the ABE students use the computer is that some programs are very difficult to use. Sometimes two or three disks must be inserted in the disk drive before the actual program begins. In these instances, the instructors feel they loose valuable time explaining how to use a particular program. Other programs require a lot of reading from a manual before a lesson could begin. The ABE students in the program had difficulty in operating these programs. They preferred to have all the directions appear on the screen.

Few software producers have developed products specifically addressed to the needs of the ABE/GED students. Instead educators generally find themselves relying on software originally produced for elementary or secondary students which is relevant to the grade level and subject area being studied by the ABE/GED client. Depending on the program, this may adequately serve the adult learner's needs. However, there are times when the program's graphic illustrations are geared to the younger student. Specific problems which may arise also include inappropriate reinforcement for adults and examples which are used to explain concepts often address the interest level of a traditional school-age population.

It would be advisable to have at least one day of in-service for the instructional staff. It is not necessary for the instructors to learn programming to implement computer assisted instruction. However, some programs do have classroom management systems that come with the program which would require extra work to learn how to operate.

MICROCOMPUTER SOFTWARE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The software bibliography is arranged according to instructional areas. Materials in each area are listed alphabetically by title. The company, cost, instructional level and description are given for each piece of software. Content areas include Career Development, Computer Literacy and Tool, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.

The evaluations are based on experiences from the students and faculty in the ABE/GED program along with the Project Director. The upper right hand corner of each evaluation contains a one word over-all evaluation. Poor, Fair, Good and Excellent are the selections chosen for the grading system.

It should be noted that the evaluations in this booklet are based on how effectively each piece of software would aid an adult learner seeking their Graduate Equivalency Diploma. The students in the ABE program are extremely goal oriented. Their goal is to obtain their GED. If a piece of software was given a poor evaluation, it simply means that the particular program would probably not help someone who is working to attain their goal. It does not mean that the program is unsuitable for all students in a conventional classroom or any other scholastic atmosphere.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Title: Successful Interviewing: Selling Yourself — Rating: Excellent
Company: Cambridge Career Products
Cost: $64.95
Instructional Level: Grades 10 - adult
Description: This program lists 21 "Do's and Don'ts" on how to sell yourself during an interview. Such things as the purpose of an interview, what to wear, being prepared to show your particular skills, how to act and what to say are stressed. At the end of the forty minute program, a twenty question true or false quiz is given on the material presented.
Evaluation: The program can be very beneficial to anyone who is unfamiliar with attending a job interview. The program was easy to use and most students were well receptive to it.

Title: Survival Skills: How to Get a Job & Hold It — Rating: Good
Company: Acquarius People Materials, Inc.
Cost: $29.95
Instructional Level: Grades 9 - 16
Description: The program is divided into two sections, the glossary and the concept area. The glossary contains the terms interests, skills, employer, stereotyped, situation wanted ad, employment agency, interview, alert, intelligent, dependable, help wanted ad. The concepts stressed include how to use "help wanted" advertisements, placing "situation wanted" ads and the importance of an interview. Questions are presented with two chances to answer correctly. If it is not, the correct answer appears accompanied by a review of the concept. Total score is given at the end of the lesson.
Evaluation: This program is beneficial to the adult learner. After obtaining their GED (Graduate Equivelancy Diploma), he/she will be looking for a job and this program lists the ways to help find a job and also the importance of keeping a job.

Title: Survival Skills: New on the Job — Rating: Good
Company: Acquarius People Materials, Inc.
Cost: $29.95
Instructional Level: Grades 10 - adult

Description: The program is divided into a glossary and concept area. The glossary introduces the terms opportunity, dependable, job responsibilities, concentrate, effeciently, accurately, welfare, big picture, gossip and extreme. The concepts covered include dressing appropriately, being on time, knowing whose in charge, and keeping your mind on your work. Questions are being asked to see if the concepts are being grasped. Two chances are given to answer correctly before the correct answer appears on the screen. Also a brief review of the concept is presented at that time. Total score is given at the end of the program.

Evaluation: Even though this program contains no subject matter relative to the GED test, the adult learners found out how to act and what to expect when they are starting a new job.

Title: Survival Skills: Self Concept and Your Work Rating: Good

Company: Acquarius People Materials, Inc.

Cost: $29.95

Instructional Level: Grade 9 - adult

Description: This program contains a section termed glossary and another termed concept material. In the glossary, the terms self-concept, physical traits, apperance, character traits, personality traits, checks and balances and attitudes are presented and explained. In the content area, the terms are presented in a different manner and questions are asked to see if the concept is being grasped. If the answer is incorrect, a brief review is presented. Total score is listed at the end of the program.

Evaluation: The program was short and concise. The students in the Adult Basic Education Program found it mediocre. They tend to be more interested in the subject material that will help them obtain their GED.

Title: There's a Career in Home Economics for You Rating: Fair

Company: MCE, Inc.

Cost: $62.50

Instructional Level: Grades 7 - 12

Description: This software program encourages students to investigate the job possibilities in the changing field of home economics. The program helps students to assess opportunities within the five phases of home economics (nutrition, textiles, consumer education, family living and parenting) for which they have an aptitude. A study of fifty-three related occupations closely related to home economics allows students to determine where their interests and skills lie. The main goal of this program is to assess students strengths and match these to the specific occupations in the broad area of home economics.

Evaluation: This is a concise program that runs clearly and easily. A career guide accompanies the program enabling the instructor and/or student to proceed without difficulty. Whether the goals of the program are achieved depends on the individual interests and skills of the students.

COMPUTER LITERACY AND TOOLS

Title: Bank Street Writer Rating: Good
Company: Scholastic, Inc.
Cost: $95.00
Instructional Level: Upper Elementary & Junior High
Description: The Bank Street Writer is a word processing program which operates in three modes. One is the Write mode, which is only used for entering texts. The other two modes, Edit and Transfer, each have a menu from which word processing jobs are selected.
Evaluation: This program is helpful to the instructors in preparing some of their own courseware. It would also be beneficial to the student who would like to try creative writing. However, the majority of the students do not use this program.

Title: Code Quest Rating: Fair
Producer: Sunburst Communications, Inc.
Cost: $59.00
Instructional Level: Grade 4 - adult
Description: This entire program is involved with problem solving and deduction. Six different types of clues are given to help reach the mystery object. You have two chances to get the correct answer. If you don't, it tells you the correct answer.
Evaluation: The program was difficult to decipher. It took constant use of the manual to understand the purpose of the program. Both the educators and students in the ABE program did not like the program or find it useful to obtain their GED. Rated higher for the gifted student.

Title: MECC Writer Rating: Fair
Company: MECC
Cost $49.00
Instructional Level: Grade 6 - adult

Description: MECC Writer is an introductory word processing program that is designed for students at the middle school level or above. It allows the students to work with words and ideas much more easily and quickly than with a pen or typewriter. It will enable the student to compose, edit and print what is typed. It is also possible to move and rearrange information efficently and quickly. What is typed can be printed right away.

Evaluation: Because this word processing program contains no subject material, most students in the ABE program do not use this type of program.

Title: MECC Write Start Rating: Fair
Company: MECC
Cost: $29.00
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - 10
Description: This program includes ten word processing skills for students in grades six and up. The first five activities are Chain Gang, Class Journal, Tempting Tidbits, Author and Too Good To Miss. In these activities the students are encouraged to think, talk, share ideas and to write. The second group of activities include, Go With The Flow, Easy Expansions, Name That Tune, Picture This!, It Could Be Verse. This group encourages the students to play with the power of words.
Evaluation: This program tries to bring out the creativity of the students. It is a word processing program. The students in the ABE program would rather use the computer with instructional and tutorial programs.

Consumer Education

Title: Becoming an Informed Shopper Rating: Good
Company: MCE, Inc.
Cost: $44.95
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - 12
Description: The program lists six things you should know about the quality of the items to be purchased: Seal of approval, workmanship of items, design, durability, utility and the necessity of the item. In the next section, you collect information about items you may want to purchase at a later date. Stresses the importance of reading labels, knowing when to shop and how to compile data from different advertising means on a particular item.

Evaluation: The program is short, but instructional and informative. It is easy to use. The students in the ABE program found it enjoyable, but not a necessity to obtain their GED.

Title: Buying Wisely — Rating: Good
Company: MCE, Inc.
Cost: $44.95
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - 12
Description: Buying Wisely deals with the multi concepts of comparative shopping. The entire program is presented in four instructional reading levels (i.e. second grade, third grade, fourth, fifth and advanced). This program allows user to determine family and self needs. After identifying these needs, user can decide items needed to be purchased to fulfill family's wants and needs. These items will then be proposed for purchase considering price and quality. At end of the program student will know if they have made the correct choices.
Evaluation: This program can be utilized by students at multi-grade levels. Buying Wisely develops concepts and gives students practice in implementing these concepts. The immediate feedback encourages students to assess and evaluate their incorrect buying practices.

Title: Consumer Math: Buying at Sale, Managing Your Money — Rating: Good
Company: Orange Cherry Media Software
Cost: $67.00
Instructional Level: Grades 4 - 8
Description: (1) Buying at Sale gives the discount percentage of an item and you must calculate how much you would pay for that item on sale. There is also a comparative sales section in which two stores have the same item on sale and you must decide which store has the better buy. (2) In Managing Your Money you learn how to plan a budget. You must decide what mathematical operation to use and calculate how much money you need for necessities and also how much you would have left for luxuries.
Evaluation: The program gives rote practice in working with whole numbers, fractions and decimals. The four basic operations are also used. The program gives immediate feedback.

Title: Consumer Math: Earning and Saving Money — Rating: Fair
Company: Orange Cherry Media

Cost: $67.00
Instructional Level: Grades 4 - 8
Description: The program gives you a choice of calculating your gross salary, savings account, net salary and interest. It also reviews the terms of net, gross and interest. After the explanation, you are given 10 problems to find the gross salary. The next segment gives 10 problems to find the net salary and the last part gives 10 problems to find the amount of interest on your principal in a savings account. You are given 2 chances to find the correct answers. If you don't,it gives you the correct answer.
Evaluation: The only problem with this program is that if you cannot calculate the correct answer yourself, it will give you the correct answer. However, it does not show how you get it or where you made your mistakes. This is the drawback of the program. The students must seek help elsewhere.

Title: Everyday Reading Skills: Making Informed Decisions Rating: Good
Company: Media Materials, Inc.
Cost: $39.95
Instructional Level: Jr. - Sr. High
Description: Four units make up Everyday Reading Skills Program which help develop skills that are essential to living in the modern world. Making Informed Decisions helps students become familiar with the vocabulary of taxes, insurances, housing and medicine. Students also get practice at reading and interpreting tax, insurance, housing statements. They also study the 1040A tax form.
Evaluation: The manner in which this program was written makes it useful to introduce and teach those skills which are new to students. It may also be used to reinforce and review the skills that have already been introduced. Even though the program does not specifically deal with the main subject areas, the adult learner could benefit from it.

Title: Lifeskill Reading 3 Understanding Product Labels Rating: Fair
Company: Media Materials
Cost: $39.95
Instructional Level: Grades 7 - adult
Description: This program is in two units of three lessons each. The first unit is consumer oriented and is concerned with Unit Price Labeling. The three lessons in this unit deal with finding the unit price of items and also how to do comparison shopping by using the unit prices of objects. Unit two is concerned with the interpretation of labels. The

first lesson deals with labels commonly found on tags attached to house plants. The second lesson deals with labels found on fire extinguishers. The final lesson is one which involves the interpretation of labels found on medicine bottles. The program can store the students scores for later review by the instructor.

Evaluation: The program may be beneficial to some students in the adult literacy program. However the contents of the software has no bearing on the client obtaining their GED. It would be for their own self-improvement.

Title: Managing Lifestyles Rating: Fair
Comparison Shopping and Budget for Success

Producer: Sunburst
Cost: $59.00
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - adult
Description: Simulation - (1) Comparison Shopping: You are living in year 2001 and must buy groceries for a family of 4 for a one week period. (2) Budget for Success: Simulation takes you through six months of life after you leave school. You make decisions that affect the money you earn and bills you pay.
Evaluation: The program is very slow because you do the same routine 12 times. At the end of the program you get no reward. It doesn't really teach anything.

Title: Survival Math #963 Rating: Fair
Company: Sunburst Communications, Inc.
Cost: $59.00
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - adult
Description: This program offers a choice of (1) Travel Agent Contest (2) Smart Shopper Marathon (3) Hot Dog Stand (4) Foreman's Assistant (5) Program Description. The program description explains the contest of each module listed above. No tutorial is given. In travel agent, you are given a certain amount of money to use to plan a vacation. Student must budget and calculate finances in order to qualify for the program. The other modules function in a like manner.
Evaluation: The program is easy to use and provides a game - type atmosphere to work in. However, no instruction was given in how to budget money, etc. It was more of a trial and error approach. The students in the GED program did not find it particularly useful.

General

Title: Arrow Dynamics (The Programming Game) Rating: Poor
Company: Sunburst
Cost: $59.00
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - adult
Description: The object of this programming game is to move an arrow across a gameboard to one of two goals using special programming statements. Obstacles, prisms and mirrors may be added to the game to increase the challenge and enhance creative thinking. Arrow Dynamics can be played four ways: as a solitaire game, cooperatively with another player, competitively with another player or as a puzzle. In order to operate this program successfully, a color monitor or television is required.
Evaluation: Although this program is highly motivating for the above average student, it is not suitable for the adult learner. The concept of the program is difficult to comprehend. The manual must be read before the disk can be used. It would not necessarily be helpful for a student seeking their Graduate Equivalency Diploma.

Title: Effective Study Skills Rating: Good
Company: Microcomputer Educational Programs
Cost: $54.95
Instructional Level: Grades 5 - 12
Description: An assessment is given of study skills such as proper light, comfortable chair, desk. Several questions are asked to determine if the student is an auditary learner, visual learner or multisensary learner. After the assessment is completed, several points are stressed that would make study habits better.
Evaluation: The program should be viewed by all students so that they may utilize their time and study habits better.

Title: Steck-Vaugh Series GED - 100 Rating: Good
Company: Steck Vaughn
Cost: $975.00
Instructional Level: High School
Description: The program comes with a teacher master, student master and subject area disk. The subject areas include reading, writing, social studies, science and math. The teacher master is used to insert a pass word, the student disk is inserted next to keep records along with individual passwords. Finally the subject area disk is used. After a selection was made,

in several instances, a manual must be used in order to complete the questions presented.

Evaluation: All the instructors in the adult literacy program felt the content material was excellent. However, it took the insertion of several disks and two passwords before the subject material was available. It also took several minutes to locate the particular material selected. If the student was deficient in a certain area, the program would refer the student to a certain page of a workbook to complete. However, the workbook does not come with the software program. It must be purchased separately.

Language Arts

Title: Beginning Composition Rating: Good
Company: Avant Garde
Cost: $34.95
Instructional Level: Grades 4 - adult
Description: The program uses simple methods and linguistic prompts to draw creative thought from the student. The menu gives you a selection of: 1) Introduction, 2) Composition, 3) File Converter. The introduction explains that the program will teach you to develop and use your senses to help you compose and write essays, stories, letters and other written material. It helps you to think by moving your eyes. In the composition part, key words or prompts are given to help you continue through your written story.
Evaluation: Beginning Composition is well written and easy to use. All the directions appear on the screen. Both instructors and students find it to be a useful program.

Title: Capitalization Plus Rating: Exc.
Company: Microcomputer Workshops
Cost: $44.95
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - adult
Description: The main menu in this program allows the students to choose one of the following: study rule, do exercise, do diagnostic test or review rules. The rules to study give the 38 different lessons when capital letters are used. You can select which area you would like to concentrate on. The rules are given along with a sample sentence. Next, 10 sentences are given for you to capitalize where necessary. If you miss a word that should be capitalized, it immediately shows the error and goes directly to the rule as to why that particular word should be capitalized.

Evaluation: The program is well presented and easy to use. Explicit directions are presented on screen. No manual is necessary. It is tutorial and can serve as a review for the adult learner.

Title: Compu - Cat Quizware Vocabulary Grades 7 - 8 Rating: Good
Company: Mc-Graw_Hill
Cost: Start-up disk $79.95 Question disk $19.95
Instructional Level: Grades 7 - 8
Description: A start up disk is needed to begin the program. Explanation of how to play the game are found on this disk. When the Question disk is inserted, the student has a choice of selecting the subject area (context, synonyms & antonyms, definition & meaning). Points are scored for each question answered correctly and are taken away for each question answered incorrectly. Thirty multiple choice questions are given to complete each game. At the end of the game, the missed questions are reviewed.
Evaluation: The student in the adult literacy program like this program because they can select the questions they want and also the level of difficulty. The game can be played alone or in a group. Even though no actual instruction is given, the students benefit from the material presented.

Title: Homework Helper - Writing Rating: Good
Company: Spinnaker Software
Cost: $39.95
Instructional Level: Grades 7 - 12
Description: This program guides the student through the three fundamental steps of writing a paper: creating ideas about the subject, organizing those ideas into an outline and writing the actual text. It includes complete word processing, editing and printing capabilities.
Evaluation: Since the three (3) steps in correct writing (Pre-writing, Writing, Re-writing) are explained in detail, the program is beneficial to any student. It is well written and all directions appear on the screen. It moves from doing a book report to an essay. It also contains a word processor and spellchecker

Title: Mastering the Parts of Speech Rating: None
Company: Society for Visual Education, Inc.
Cost: $299.00
Instructional Level: Grades 6,7,8 Remediation 9,10
Description: Mastering Parts of Speech is a six-disk program that teaches

Description: the parts of speech through a series of tutorials and drill/ practice exercises. The six disks include verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions. The program comes with forty-two reproducible skill sheets which review and compliment the concepts taught in the software.

Evaluation: No opportunity to pre-view.

Title: Punctuation I (Terminal Punct.) Rating: Good
Company: Educational Activities, Inc.
Cost: $59.95
Instructional Level: Grades 4 - 6 Remedial Secondary
Description: The program is basically divided into two parts. Part 1 introduces the period, question mark & exclamation point, defines their uses and provides example of each punctuation mark. Part 2 is the drill and practice phase. It lets the students insert the proper terminal mark for each of a series of sentences.
Evaluation: This program is short (15 - 30 min.) and concise. When the student makes a mistake, the correct answer appears and the concept redefined. The program is very easy to use. The manual is not necessary to use in order to complete the program. Program also gives activity sheets to use as a supplement.

Title: Punctuation II Rating: Good
Company: Educational Activities
Cost: $59.95
Instructional Level: Grades 4 - 6 Remedial Secondary
Description: This program deals with initial teaching or remediation of the use of the comma. A brief review of the 8 times when commas are used is given followed by a short quiz.
Evaluation: It is a short program but covers the area described. It is easy to use and very legible. The adult students find it a good and quick review of the comma.

Title: Quotation Marks Rating: Good
Company: Educational Activities, Inc.
Cost: $45.00
Instructional Level: Grades 4 through 8 (Remedial high school)

Description: This program covers six concepts; The Direct Quotation, The Indirect Quotation, Capital Letters in Direct Quotations, Interrupting Expressions in Quoted Sentences, Direct Quotation and Commas, Closing Punctuation in Direct Quotations. Each module provides an interactive-tutorial presentation. Each lesson begins with a review where examples of correct usage are given and explained. This is followed by a drill exercise.

Evaluation: The program completely covers the aspect of quotation marks. The package comes with activity sheets to use as a supplement. The program also comes with a back-up disk. If difficulty is encountered during any module, a tutorial is available for use.

Title: Reading Keys: Level 6 Rating: Poor

Company: Avant-Garde Publishing Corp.

Cost: $49.95

Instructional Level Level 6

Description: The program is divided into 3 disks - The Master Disk, The Discovery Disk and the Learning Disk. The Master Disk contains directions to operate the program. The Discovery Disk is the evaluator that checks the students in 16 objectives in two goal areas to determine which reading skills are mastered and which skills need to be learned. The Learning Disk contains lessons and exercises that can correct the difficulties found in the Discovery Disk.

Evaluation: The programs strong points are that it keeps a record of the students preformances and what levels are mastered and where more practice is needed. The draw backs include the fact that the 3 disks that make up the program must be changed frequently. This is extremely difficult when only one disk drive is listed. Also, the program does not give immediate feedback. It doesn't tell you you which questions you got wrong, only what your score is after 5 questions are completed.

Title: Sentence Structure: Skill Building Adventure Rating: Good

Company: Society for Visual Education, Inc.

Cost: $299.00

Instructional Level: Grades 6,7,8 Remediation 9,10

Description: The program is divided into 6 disks. They include sentence sense, subjects & predicates, verbs and complements, sentence patterns, clauses and verbals. All disks follow a similar design: interactive tutorials that teach a specific concept, quizes that measure developing knowledge of the concept and lesson tests that measure the mastery of the lesson.

Evaluation: The concepts covered are good, however the method of presentation is a bit juvenile for the adult learner. The program is self-explanatory, no manual is necessary. It also comes with reproductive skill sheets to be used when a student is having difficulty with a certain concept.

Title: Speed Reader II Rating: Exc.
Company: Davidson & Associates
Cost: $69.95
Instructional Level: Grades 9 to adult
Description: The program contains two "Warm-Up" Exercises. The first contains letters and the second contains words. Each exercise has 3 levels. As you move from one level to the next, you are widening your eye span and as you progress within each level, you are increasing your rate of perception. These exercises are followed by an eye movement lesson, column reading lesson, reading passage lesson and a timed reading test. Each time that you work on this program you should follow the practice sessions that are listed in the manual. It will tell you approximately how long to spend on each exercise. Also, a chart is kept to record your progress on each exercise.
Evaluation: If the program is followed as outlined in the manual, the students should make significant strides in their reading skills. The instructor in the ABE program is very high on this program.

Title: Whole Brain Spelling Rating: Good-Fair
Producer: Sublogic Corp.
Cost: $34.95
Instructional Level: Grades 3 - 6
Description: In this program 200 ten word lists are available for spelling practice. Words are arranged in spelling difficulty, not vocabulary difficulty. Misspelled words are analyzed and trouble spots are identified by visual display. There are no tests or scores. You move at your own pace.
Evaluation: This program is designed to make full use of color capabilities of computer. Trouble spots are shown through the color, so if your monitor is not color, the program is not nearly as effective. The program content material is useful for the students preparing to take the GED test.

Title: Word Attack — Rating: Exc.
Producer: Davidson & Associates
Cost: $49.95
Instructional Level: Grades 4 - 10
Description: Program stresses practicing and improving vocabulary. There are 4 seperate reinforcements for each set of vocabulary words. The words are grouped into 9 levels of difficulty. The students can call on "help" and recycle missed words. The teacher can also add his/her own list of words. There are 27 lists of 25 words and 4 activities for each set of vocabulary words.
Evaluation: The program is excellent with several types of drills as reinforcement. The only problem with the program is that you have to use a data disk. This aspect may cause the adult learner to get confused and loose interest in the program.

Title: Word Attack Data Disk — Rating: Exc.
Company: Davidson & Associates , Inc.
Instructional Level: Grades 8 & 9
Description: The Word Attack data disk is to be used with the Word Attack Program Disk. It contains twenty lists of twenty-five words, their meanings and sentences for use with all activities on the Word Attack Program Disk. The vocabulary words are broken into each level containing adjectives, nouns and verbs. A glossary of the words and their meanings is included in the packet.
Evaluation: The program itself is an excellent review. As stated in the Word Attack Program, if only one disk drive is used, the adult learner may get confused switching the program disk and the data disk.

Title: Word Scramble & Spelling Tutor — Rating: Exc.
Company: Avant - Garde Publishing Corp.
Cost: $34.95
Instructional Level: Grades 1 - 12
Description: The program was divided into 2 sections, Word Scrambler and Spelling Tutor. In Word Scrambler you choose from a vocabulary list of grades 1-3, 4-8 or 9-12. Then a word appears on the screen with the letters mixed. You are to unscramble the letters. You could select how much time you wanted to correctly solve each word, you get 3 chances to do so. In Spelling Tutor you choose what level you wish to work on, then a word appears on the screen. When it disappears, you are to type that word correctly. You are given the choice of time needed and 5 chances to spell the word correctly. Instructor can also add his/her own word lists.

Evaluation: Instructors found the Spelling Tutor section of the program very useful in preparing for the GED test. It can be individualized to fit each students needs. However, the Word Scrambler section got to be very difficult when using the grades 9-12 vocabulary list. There were at least 10 letters to each word and most ABE students could not complete this level.

Title: Verb Viper Rating: Fair
Company: Developmental Learning Materials
Cost: $44.00
Instructional Level: Grades 3 - 9
Description: This program provides practice in selecting the correct verb for specific subject areas that appear. The arcade type game provides practice in selecting singular and plural forms of the "to be" verbs and the verb "have". It also includes singular and plural of present tense action verbs, forms of regular and irregular past tense verbs and past participles with auxiliary verbs.
Evaluation: The program is not instructional. It is strictly an arcade type game. The manual had to be read to understand the procedure to play the game. There are levels of difficulty, time chances and content options that can be changed, but in order to do this, you had to have the manual at your side. The directions did not appear on screen. It does come with reproductible worksheets to use as a supplement.

Mathematics

Title: Fractions, Decimals and Percent Rating: Exc.
Company: Society for Visual Education, Inc.
Cost: $299.00
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - 8 Older Students Remedially
Description: Six disks are included in this program along with reproducible skill sheets to be used in correlation with each disk. The first two disks cover fractions and address specific trouble areas. It covers adding and subtracting like and unlike fractions and equivalent fraction. Then the operations of multiplication and division as they apply to fractions are outlined. The next 2 disks deal with decimals including all 4 operations. The fifth disc introduces students to percents. Final disk in the series contains word problems in which fractions, decimals and percents are used.
Evaluation: Disks are ready to use and easy to follow. Student directions are contained on each disk and students are given immediate

feedback as to whether their responses are correct. Step-by-step tutorials are available for each problem.

Title: High School Math Competency Rating: Exc.
Company: Microcomputer Workshops Courseware
Cost: $99.00
Instructional Level: Grades 9 - 12
Description: The program comes in two disks. Disk I contains the topics whole numbers, fractions, decimals, basic percent, integers and algebra. Disk II contains geometry, ratios, probability statistics, percents, money and miscellaneous. Rote problems are given in each area. Ten problems are given and the student gets two chances to answer each problem correctly. If not, the correct answer appears on the screen. However, only the answer appears, the method of obtaining the answer is not given.
Evaluation: The instructor in the GED program finds it useful as a supplement, after a particular concept is presented. When the area of deficiency is diagnosed, the students are given their own particular area to drill on.

Title: Math Blaster Rating: Good
Company: Davidson & Associates, Inc.
Cost: $49.95
Instructional Level: Elementary Grades - 7 pre-algebra
Description: Five subject areas are given for you to choose from: (1) addition (2) subtraction (3) multiplication (4) division (5) fractions and decimals. Each subject area has 5 levels to select: (1) Look & Learn (2) Build Your Skill (3) Challenge Yourself (4) Math Blaster (5) Load a New File. Program allows you to go over mistakes made and tells you immediately if you have answered incorrectly.
Evaluation: Program has a good assortment of math facts. The Math Blaster section is an arcade game that children love. For the adult learner, the program is really too easy. It can serve as a basic review.

Title: Mathematics Volume 3 (Geometric Shapes) Rating: Exc.
Company: Minnesota Educational Computingonsortium
Cost: $39.00
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - 8
Description: Geometric shapes, perimeters, rectangle and square areas, parallelogram areas, trapezoid and triangle areas are the selections listed in the menu. In the Geometric shapes area,

practice is given in identifying the six basic geometric shapes: rectangle, square, parallelogram, rhombus, trapezoid and triangle. The ability to identify these shapes is a prerequisite to all the remaining programs on the disk. The program is to be used with supplemental study sheets. They are to be completed as each selection from the menu is being done on the computer.

Evaluation: The program is well done and easy to use. For those who only need a review of the material covered, a section on computation is given. The student who needs more instruction on the geometric shapes can proceed to the tutorial section first and review problems second. This piece of software is a great asset in preparing for the GED test.

Title: Math Run Rating: Fair
Company: Avant-Garde Publishing Corp.
Cost: $34.95
Instructional Level: Elementary - Jr. High
Description: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division are presented with 3 levels of difficulty in each operation. Each operation is given seperarely or you may select a mixture of all 4. You also select the speed at which you would like to work.

Evaluation: No instruction is given in this program. It is strictly a drill on the four basic operations. The guide to the program did have to be read to understand the procedure. Students in the adult literacy program found the program some what helpful.

Title: Multiplying Fractions Rating: Exc.
Company: Microcomputer Workshops
Cost: $24.95
Instructional Level: Grades 5 - 8 (General High School Classes)
Description: This program has a selection of multiplying fractions or using a data management system. A sample step by step problem is given to guide you in using the computer to do the computation. Next you select how many problems you would like to do. The program will stop you if you make a mistake and have you correct it before you proceed with the rest of the problem. At the end of the selected number of problems, your score is given. It is also broken down in to procedural errors and computation errors.

Evaluation: The program serves as a very good review of how to multiply fractions. The step by step lesson is well explained. The adult learners in the ABE class benefited greatly from this program. The data management system is also helpful to the instructor.

Title: Percents Rating: Good
Company: Educational Activities, Inc.
Cost: $59.95
Instructional Level: Jr. - Sr. High School
Description: Program is divided into three levels: (1) Rewriting a decimal as a percent and percent as a decimal (2) Rewriting a fraction as a percent (3) Finding the percent of a number. In all 3 levels you have two chances to answer correctly and then the correct answer appears.
Evaluation: The program can best be utilized when used as a supplement for someone having trouble in this content area. It is easy to use-all the directions appear on the screen. The manual is not necessary.

Title: Ratios & Proportions Rating: Good
Company: Milton Bradley Co.
Cost: $49.95
Instructional Level: Grades 7 - 9
Description: Readiness Skills begin this program, which allows the students to practice on two entry skills that they will need to have mastered before they go on to the regular skills. Then the program moves in a step-by-step sequence through the five basic skills from writing ratios through writing and solving proportions. The program is accompanied with a booklet of reproducible worksheets and tests.
Evaluation: The learners who experience difficulty are branched to the more guided instructional sessions. Students who understand the techniques, but need more practice in their application may find the program useful. However, the step-by-step guide is never taken away completely, so the students never get totally untutored practice solving word problems that use proportions.

Title: Read & Solve Math Problems #2 Rating: Exc.
Company: Educational Activities
Cost: $99.95
Instructional Level: Grades 4 - 6; 7 - 12 (remedial class)
Description: This program is a tutorial and practice learning system designed to teach how to solve problems that have 2 steps. This is achieved through conversion. The program is success oriented so that 2 chances are given to solve each problem. When the problem is stated, you must state the problem in equation form. If this part is correct, then you solve the equation. This answer is needed to write the equation for step 2 of the problem. Finally, the computation is done to answer the problem.

Evaluation: The program is easily usable where the manual is not necessary. The correct response brings immediate and positive reinforcements. Incorrect response results in specific instructional branches that are based on type of error made. The student controls the pace of the program and may study each problem for as long as desired. Instructors find it very helpful in preparing for GED test.

Title: Sem Calc (Word Problem Solver) Rating: Fair
Producer: Sunburst
Cost: $95.00
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - 12
Description: The purpose of this program is to help students solve word problems by focusing on units rather than numbers. There is a lot of changing to be done from one screen to another. The student must switch to a "pad" where the quantities are listed. Special keys must be used to do this. After you enter the quantities on the "pad" a different key must be used for computing the quantities.
Evaluation: The program is very difficult and complicated to use. The manual is even difficult to follow. The instructor usually must explain its usage to each student. Therefore this program does not suit the needs of individualized instructional program.

Title: Sined Number Operations Rating: None
Company: Callamare Educational Publishing
Cost: $99.00
Instructional Level: Grades 7 - 9
Description: Sined Number Operations is one lesson from a series of nine programs dealing with basic algebra. A mastery test for the lesson is provided on the flip side of the disk. Test items are selected randomly so that unique tests are constructed each time. Results of the student's preformance are given with each item answered. The test is automatically terminated when the mastery criterion either has been met or can no longer be met.
Evaluation: No opportunity to preview.

Science

Title: Alcohol and Health Rating: Good
Company: Cambridge Career Products
Cost: $120.00
Instructional Level: Jr. High - adult

Description: There are 2 disks to this program. Disk I explains the personal effects of drinking alcohol. It gives the history of alcohol and explains what ethyl alcohol is. Disk II contains the social aspect of drinking, the relationship between alcohol and auto accidents, alcohol and the law, alcohol and religious groups.

Evaluation: In both disks there is a lot of reading. Disk I is somewhat instructional but moves slowly at times. In Disk II, after the informational first section, a quiz of 11 multiple choice questions is given on the material previously presented. If you score less than a 90%, you are supposed to re-take the lesson. Some adult learners may find it interesting for personal reasons. I don't feel it has any bearing on a learner obtaining their GED.

Title: Alcohol: The Party Rating: Good

Company: Cambridge Career Products

Cost: $49.95

Instructional Level: Jr. High - adult

Description: This is an educational simulation in which you are given a choice of attending "The Party" or the tutorial section. At "The Party" you make the choice of what you want to drink and whether you want to eat or not. The simulation shows the amount of alcohol in the bloodstream. It also shows whether or not you should drive. The tutorial section asks 12 questions and gives you facts on alcohol and its relations on other body functions.

Evaluation: It is an informative program that allows you to make a choice and then shows how your selection would effect the people around you. For the ABE student, the program may be a supplement for some, but I don't feel it would aid in obtaining their GED, which is their prime concern.

Title: Circulation - Organs Rating: Good

Company: Micro Power & Light Co.

Cost: $29.95

Instructional Level: Grades 5 - 12 Adult Refresher Course

Description: The program addresses the following topics: blood, heart, arteries, capillaries, veins and lungs. Each topic consists of a tutorial section, a quiz and an opportunity to review the topics presented. A game between the student and the computer is also on option.

Evaluation: The program is easy to use and adequately covers the topics mentioned above. Both the instructors and students in the adult literacy program felt the material presented would help obtain their GED.

Title:	Eat Smart	Rating: Fair
Company:	Pillsbury Company	
Cost:	$19.95	
Instructional Level:	Grades 7 - 16	
Description:	This program encourages the user to choose the proper foods in planning their daily diet. Given a proposed list of breakfast, luncheon and dinner menus, the student uses their dietary skills in selecting foods from each food group to create a balanced diet plan. In another phase of the program, students can enter their dietary intake and, then, assess where their diets are insufficent. This program creates the students awareness of the importance of proper food selection.	
Evaluation:	"Eat Smart" is a good program for use in nutrition education. However, it would not be an effective teaching aid in preparing students for their Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED).	

Title:	Food Encounters	Rating: Fair
Company:	Dairy Council Resources	
Cost:	$29.95	
Instructional Level:	Intermediate Grades	
Description:	Instructional game that gives students the opportunity to participate in a futuristic adventure of delivering food from the four food groups to space colonies on the galactic frontier. The students are to obtain reinforcement of the names of four food groups and the type of food that belongs in each group.	
Evaluation:	The program, although 4 sided, is short and easy to use. However, students in the adult literacy program do not find this program helpful in obtaining their GED.	

Title:	Internal Journey	Rating: Good
Company:	Epcot Educational Media	
Cost:	$59.95	
Instructional Level:	Grades 7 - 12	
Description:	Internal Journey is a challenging trip through the systems of the human body. This instructional program presents pertinent facts about the body and how it functions. The methodology of Internal Journey is entertaining as well as instructional, offering lively graphics to stimulate interest and response from the user. The ultimate goals of Internal Journey are to familiarize the student with the mechanics of one's body and the interaction of one's food with the organs of the body.	
Evaluation:	This is an excellent program for the high school level (gr. 7-12) student. Prerequisites are a knowledge of the human body and it's organs. Internal Journey is easily followed with self contained instruction. This program would be an asset to the adult learner preparing for his/her GED because of the biology lessons integrated with the nutrition lessons.	

Title:	Knowledge Master: Biology	Rating: Good
Company:	Academic Hallmarks	
Cost:	$27.00	
Instructional Level:	Grades 8 - adult	
Description:	Two modes are found in this program - Competition Mode and Quiz Mode. The Competition Mode is played between 2 players. The players choose a topic, the number of questions and whether the questions are to be asked randomly or sequentially. This game is timed and you are to answer questions on the chosen topics as quickly as possible. The round continues until the selected number of questions has been displayed. The Quiz Mode is done basically the same way where 1 of 13 topics is to be selected. The topics include Life, Cells, Tissues, Body Organs, Skeletal System, Blood and Circulatory System,Muscles, Respiratory System, Digestive System, Endocrine System, Integumentary System, Reproductive System and the Excretory System. It tells you how many questions are available on each topic and allows you to select how many questions you want. The program tells you which questions you answered wrong and what the correct answer is.	
Evaluation:	The program is a good review for students who have previously studied the given topics. For those who have not, the majority of the questions are too difficult.	

Title:	Knowledge Master: Health	Rating: Good
Company:	Academic Hallmarks	
Cost:	$27.00	
Instructional Level:	Grades 8 - adult	
Description:	Two modes are found in this program - Competition Mode and Quiz Mode. The Competition Mode is played between 2 players. The players choose a topic, number of questions and whether the questions are to be asked randomly or sequentially. This game is timed and you are to answer questions on the chosen topics as quickly as possible. The round continues until the selected number of questions has been displayed. The Quiz Mode is done basically the same way where 1 of 8 topics, First Aid, Disease and Disorders, Alcoholism, Tobacco Habit, Drugs and Narcotics, Health Examination, History of Medicine and Nutrition, is selected. It tells you how many questions are available on each topic and allows you to select how many questions you want. The program tells you which questions you answered are wrong and what the correct answer is.	
Evaluation:	The program is a good review for students who have previously studied the given topics. For those who have not, the majority of the questions are too difficult.	

Title:	Learning to Cope With Pressure	Rating: Exc.
Company:	Sunburst	
Cost:	$99.00	

Instructional Level: All grade levels

Description: "Learning to Cope With Pressure" is designed to give teachers a method and a specific format to help students learn to relax and reduce stress. When the objectives of the program are attained, students performance levels rise and they show an increased capacity for learning. The program integrates the computer with a technique called biofeedback in teaching relaxation skills. Biofeedback is a process that uses electronics to detect internal body activities. The program includes a G.S.R. (galvanic skin resistance) biosensor which is a mechanism to detect sensory changes for the immediate feedback. The program manual gives numerous ideas and suggestions for assisting students in their efforts to relax and cope with daily stress. An audio cassette also accompanies the program providing one method of relaxation. In order to operate this program effectively,the student must be encouraged to experiment with a variety of relaxation techniques until they fine the method that suites their needs.

Evaluation: This program is an excellent program for any age level. It is easily operated with use of the program manual. The more relaxed a person is, the more receptive he is to learning. The relaxation techniques set forth in this program would be useful to students and teachers alike.

Title: Light Rating: Poor

Company: J&S Software

Cost: $29.00

Instructional Leval: Grades 8 - 11 remedial

Description: This program reviews and teaches many of the properties of light. A student is asked a question and he/she has 2 chances to answer it correctly. If this is not accomplished,a brief tutorial about the subject appears as a review. In this way the instructor is able to determine the area of weakness of the student and assign him/her to a brief review of the area of difficulty.

Evaluation: The concept is good, however, the content area is too diffi- for the adult learner. It can be best utilized after a complete lesson on light is presented to a class. This is not the case in the ABE/GED program.

Title: Machines, Work and Energy Rating: Good

Company: Educational Activities

Cost: $59.95

Instructional Level: Grades 4 - 8

Description: The program is an introduction to the six simple machines: lever, inclined plane, wedge, screw, wheel & axle and pulley. The scientific concepts of work, force and energy are stressed. Each program contains internal reviews and concludes

with a five question review on the subject matter covered in that particular lesson.

Evaluation: The program is easy to use and is instructional as it proceeds. It also quized you as you proceed and allows you to go back and review if the need arises. Also at the end of each module, the quiz will tell you if you have mastered that section and should proceed to the next or go back and repeat the program. The program comes with reproducable worksheets to supplement material covered.

Title: Nutra Raid/Nutra Puzzle Rating: Poor

Cost:

Company: Dairy, Food and Nutrition Council, Inc.

Instructional Level: Grades 7 - 12

Description: This program should be used as a classroom supplement to a lesson on "Guide to Good Eating" - published by the National Dairy Council. There are two parts to this program. Part I, called Nutra Raid, consists of 26 nutrition words which are scrambled. You have 3 chances to answer correctly. All words are derived from the National Dairy Councils', "A Guide to Good Eating". Part II gives you a choice of six seperate crossword puzzles ranging from 9 to 15 word items. Five clues are given for each word. If you complete the puzzle, the program ends.

Evaluation: This program is not applicable to the adult learner. It is designed to reinforce basic concepts introduced in the classroom and is supposed to be followed by a group discussion. Both format and subject matter are not suitable.

Title: Nutri-Venture Rating: Poor

Company: Kellogg Company

Cost: $25.00

Instructional Level: Grades 7 - 12

Description: The disk lists 3 programs to choose from: (1) Breakfast Criss-Cross which is a game played by 2 players similar to tic-tac-toe. Each square contains a different symbol that stands for different nutritional words - for example Vit.C. Four different menus are given and you select the one you feel is highest in Vit. C. Whichever player selects the correct answer, they capture the square. (2) K-2000 Computer was not able to be viewed because of the type of hardware used. (3) Nutrition Shuttle was a simulation in which you are in a space ship and must select meals from several menus given to maintain a balanced diet. If you did not, your space ship would not land on target.

Evaluation: This program would be very useful when used in conjunction

with classroom instruction. It would not benefit the adult learner seeking to obtain their GED.

Title: Smoking: It's Up To You — Rating: Good
Producer: MEEC
Cost: $49.00
Instructional Level: Grades 7 - 12
Description: A ten question quiz on smoking is given to start the program. Your response to these questions are compared to those responses given by teenagers in regard to smoking.
Evaluation: The program was very informative. It does not cover material in any content area for ABE/GED students, but may be beneficial to some for their own interests.

Title: The Smoking Decision — Rating: Good
Company: Sunburst Communications
Cost: $59.00
Instructional Level: Grades 6 - 12
Description: The program first presents students with clear facts regarding the dangers of smoking. It then explores issues that teenagers are most concerned about - their acceptance by society and especially by their peers. The overall approach is for students to discover the facts they need to know in order to make a personal but informed decision about smoking or not smoking. There are no right or wrong answers, so the students do not feel intimidated by the program.
Evaluation: This program would benefit some of the students for personal reasons. It tries to gear the students to make the correct decision not to smoke. It is not particularly pertinent in obtaining their GED.

Title: Weather — Rating: Good
Company: Educational Activities, Inc.
Cost: $59.95
Instructional Level: Grades 5 - 9
Description: This program gives 3 lessons - one each on- Air Pressure, Humidity, Temperature and Wind. Each section gives an instructional lesson followed by a quiz.
Evaluation: This program serves as a good review of the 3 topics covered. It is easy to use. The adult learners found the program informative.

Title: What's in Your Lunch — Rating: Poor

Company: Lawrence Hall of Science/ University of California
Cost: $24.95
Instructional Level: Grades 4 - 12
Description: This program is designed to provide an individual with quantitative information about the nutritional content of common lunch items.
Evaluation: Because the program is designed to record a student's lunch content over a week's time, it is really not suitable for an adult learner who is seeking their GED.

Title: World Clocks Rating: Fair
Company: COM Press
Cost: $50.00
Instructional Level: Grades 9 - 13
Description: The main menu consists of an introduction, demonstration, and clock program. The introduction gives pertinent information about the sun, planets and seasons. The demonstration contained maps showing different parts of the world in relation to day and night and the seasons.
Evaluation: The disk came completely alone. There was no manual. The program itself is tutorial and instructional in some areas. However, some prior knowledge of the concepts covered are a prerequisite. The students and instructors in the ABE program found it somewhat useful.

Title: You Are What You Eat Rating: Fair
Company: Media Materials, Inc.
Cost: $39.95
Instructional Level: Grades 7 - 12
Description: You Are What You Eat assesses the student's daily food intake and correlates ones' diet with the physical and mental health of their body. The program is a good source of nutritional information on the foods that we eat. The objectives of the program are to increase the student's awareness of the foods they eat, and to show how these foods affect their overall health. The program runs successfully with very little previous computer instruction. Each student's program is individualized according to their food ingestion. There is immediate feedback which allows the user to evaluate their daily food habits.
Evaluation: You Are What You Eat is an excellent program for use in nutrition education classes. However, this program would not be beneficial for a student's preparation for his GED.

Social Studies

Title: Community Search Rating: Poor
Company: McGraw Hill/ Webster Division
Cost: $189.60
Instructional Level: Above average students in grades 5 - 9
Description: This program is a simulation for 4 groups of any number of students. Fifteen social studies concepts are integrated into the choices faced by an ancient society forced to leave it's ancestral home - choices about migration, occupations, trades, agression and a race with other societies to build a monument. A seperate booklet called Searchbook is essential in working the program. The students go from about a 2 minute group turn on the computer to group discussion.
Evaluation: Both the content and format are not suitable for the ABE/GED student. Group work is rarely used. Each students work is individualized.

Title: Compu-Cat Quizware: Social Studies Grade 6 Rating: Good
Company: Mc-Graw-Hill
Cost: Start-up disk $79.95 Question disk $19.95
Instructional Level: Grade 6
Description: A start-up disk is needed to load into the computer all the rules and procedures to operate the game. The Question disk is a game that consists of 30 multiple choice questions. You may either compete against other players or play by yourself. The student selects the speed difficulty level and subject area- Pre-History, European History and World Today. At the end of the game, the opportunity to review the missed questions is available.
Evaluation: This particular program is a big hit with the adult learner. Although no instruction is actually given, the students do learn from the game like format.

Title: Discover What Graphs Can Tell You Rating: Good
Company: Media Materials
Cost: $39.95
Instructional Level: Grades 7 - adult
Description: This program explains two main types of graphs- bar graphs and picture graphs. It stresses the importance of reading and understanding the title of each graph. After the explanation is given, several true or false questions are given on reading bar graphs. Same format follows for picture graphs.
Evaluation: The program is very short and concise. It comes with a reproducible booklet giving drill and practice on reading graphs. The instructors in the GED/ABE programs find this program very useful.

Title: Game of the States Rating: Exc.
Company: Media Materials
Cost: $39.95
Instructional Level: Grade 3 & up
Description: Five modules make up this program. (1) Name the States (2) Capitals (3) Abbreviations (4) Name the Neighbors (5) Major Cities Game. Each module gives you a selection of Level 1 or 2. Level 1 gives you multiple choice questions. If you select the correct answer on the first attempt, you will score 5 points. If you need a second chance, you score 1 point. Level 2 is more challenging. You are to answer the questions by typing in the answer spelled correctly, without choices. If this is done correctly, you score 10 points. If not a choice of 3 appears on the screen for you to select your answer. After each section, it tells you what states you missed.
Evaluation: The program is very helpful to the adult learner. No actual instruction is given. It follows a quiz mode and gives immediate feedback. Both the instructors and students in GED program found it very helpful.

Title: Lincoln's Decisions Rating: Good
Company: Educational Activities, Inc.
Cost: $63.00
Instructional Level: Grade 7 - adult
Description: This program is a historical simulation based on Abraham Lincoln's political career and presidency. Students are presented with historical circumstances and are asked to make the same decisions once made by Lincoln. Clues are given in the forms of maps, timeline and bits of appropriate circumstances.
Evaluation: Because of the format of this program, it may be used alone or in conjunction with a lesson on the Civil War. It is very easy to use, gives immediate feedback and a brief tutorial lesson if a question was answered incorrectly. Both the instructors and students in the adult literacy program found it beneficial.

Title: Knowledge Master: American History #1 Rating: Good
Company: Academic Hallmarks
Cost: $27.00
Instructional Level: Grades 8 - adult
Description: Program includes two modules - (1) Quiz and (2) Competition. In Quiz Mode the topics of Early Exploration, The Colonial Period, The American Revolution, The Confederation and periods covering 1789 - 1853 are listed. The student selects the

subject area and how many questions he/she would like to answer. The program tells you what questions are wrong and what the correct answers are. (2) Competition Mode is played between 2 players. The proceedure is basically the same as the quiz mode. When a question appears, each player tries to answer it. Whoever answers the question correctly first, scores the points. The round continues until the requested number of questions has been displayed.

Evaluation: The program is a good review for students who have previously studied the subject areas listed above. No actual instruction is presented. However, the students can still benefit from this particular format.

Title: Knowledge Master: Geography Quiz #1 Rating: Good
Company: Academic Hallmarks
Cost: $27.00
Instructional Level: Grades 8 - adult
Description: Program includes two modules - (1) Quiz and (2) Competition. Table of Contents in the Quiz Mode include Maps & Map Reading, Continents, Oceans, Seas, Islands, Lakes, Rivers, Deserts, Mountains, Latin American Geography. The student selects the area and how many questions he/she would like to answer. The program tells you what questions are wrong and what the correct answers are. (2) The Competition Mode is played between two players. The proceedure is basically the same as the quiz mode. When a question appears, the players try to answer it. Whoever answers it correctly first, scores the points. The round continues until the requested number of questions has been displayed.

Evaluation: The program is a good review for students who have previously studied the subject areas listed above. No actual instruction is given. However, the students can still benefit from this particular format.

Title: Knowledge Master: Government Rating: Good
Comapny: Academic Hallmarks
Cost: $27.00
Instructional Level: Grades 8 - adult
Description: Two modes are included in this program, the Competition Mode and a Quiz Mode. The Competition Mode is a game played between two players where they select a certain amount of questions. Points would be scored by each player according to who was the first player to answer the question correctly. The round continues until the requested number of questions has been displayed. The player with the higher number of points is the winner. The Quiz Mode gives you a selection from the Table of Contents. It includes Forms of History & Government, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, American Constitution, Amendments,

Separation of Powers, Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, The Judiciary, Government Agencies, Elections & Voting, Citizenship, Local Government, Law & Legal Terms and International Relations. After the choice of content is made, you also select how many questions you would like to answer from the chosen content area. After you have completed the questions, your score is given and a chance to review the questions missed.

Evaluation: Unless a lesson on government was previously presented, the majority of the students would have difficulty answering the questions.

Title: Map Reading: Intro to Direction and Distance Rating: Fair
Company: Micro Power & Light Company
Cost: $19.95
Instructional Level: Grades 3 & up
Description: The definition of a compass and how it works is explained. The concept of scale is introduced next. It teaches you how to calculate and write distances. There is a mastery quiz given to confirm the students comprehension of the material presented.

Evaluation: The program is very basic in simple direction. The instructor found it beneficial in his program because it is self-explanatory and the students can work at their own pace. If a question is missed, a step-by-step tutorial is presented.

Title: Meet the Presidents Rating: Good
Company: Versa Computing, Inc.
Cost: $39.95
Instructional Level: Grades 5 - 10
Description: This program is an educational game using hi-resolution portraits of all forty (40) presidents of the United States. As the portrait unfolds, historical clues are presented until the president is identified. Music and unusual graphics make this game both educational and entertaining. Menu includes: 1) Run Picture Show, 2) Run Slide Show, and 3) Make New Questions.

Evaluation: Because the program is divided into four (4) disks with ten (10) presidents on each disk, in order, the students can work on the particular era that they are having difficulty with. The #2 on the menu, Slide Show, should be listed first to serve as a review. Overall, the program is well done and the students were well receptive to it.

Title: Regions of the U.S. Rating: Excelle
Company: Educational Activities, Inc.

Cost: $59.95
Instructional Level: Grades 5 - 12
Description: Takes each section of the country (New England, Southern, Mid-Atlantic, etc.) and goes over each states position in that particular region. After the review is finished, a beginner quiz is given on twenty (20) states listed randomly. Next, a super quiz follows where you must spell states correctly. If you miss either the correct state or its spelling, you are given a chance to go back to that particular section and review it.
Evaluation: The program is easy to use. It is a good review of states and their placement. It gives immediate feedback and a chance to review where it is needed. The students in the GED program found it very useful.

Title: U.S. Government (Grades 9 - 13) Rating: Good
Company: Sliwa
Cost: $35.00
Instructional Level: Grades 9 - 13
Description: U.S. Government explores the functions, powers and historical significance of the three branches of our government. There are extensive questions on the U.S. presidents, their character traits, actions taken in office and the data and circumstances of their elections. It also covers the electoral process.
Evaluation: The manual that comes with the packet is in disk form. It contains a lot of reading. The program covers the content material listed above. Both students and instructors found the software beneficial.

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